

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00

OMB-01 MMS-01 /047 W

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O R 281106Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4767

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

COMUSMACTHAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 9730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR,TH

SUBJ: U.S. FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND: PUBLIC AFFAIRS

REF: BANGKOK 9539

1. JOINT US-THAI WORKING GROUP MEETING ON CURRENT PHASE OF FORCE REDUCTIONS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2 (REFTEL). THIS MEETING WILL RESULT IN PRESS RELEASE DESCRIBING CUTS AGREED TO.
2. SOON THEREAFTER, ADDITIONAL CUTS TOTALING 4,000 SPACES WILL HAVE TO BE AGREED UPON AND ANNOUNCED IN ORDER TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENT TO CUT 7,500 SPACES BY ABOUT JUNE 30.
3. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT YET INFORMED WHERE THE ADDITIONAL 4,000 SPACES ARE TO COME FROM, WE NOTE THAT THIS NUMBER COULD BE REACHED SIMPLY BY ABOLISHING EXISTING UNFILLED SPACES. IF THIS IS INDEED WHAT WASHINGTON CONTEMPLATES, SEPARATE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THEREOF WILL GIVE US SERIOUS PUBLIC RELATION PROBLEM. REDUCTION OF 4,000 "GHOST" TROOPS WILL NOT ONLY LACK IMPACT, BUT WILL BE WIDELY
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PERCEIVED IN THAILAND AS SHELL GAME. DESPITE ALL EFFORTS,

THAI CONFUSE AUTHORIZED SPACES WITH PHYSICAL BODIES,
AND IT WILL BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVINCE THEM THAT
WE ARE NOT PLAYING SOME KIND OF TRICK WITH MIRRORS.

4. IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS, WE SHOULD ANNOUNCE ENTIRE
REDUCTION OF 7,500 AT THE SAME TIME WE ANNOUNCE DRAWDOWN
OF F-11'S AND B-52'S AND CLOSURE OF UBON. THIS SHOULD
BE DONE UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL PART OF 4,000 SPACES NOT
YET ACCOUNTED FOR IN DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS WILL
CONSIST OF ACTUAL UNITS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST WE BE ADVISED IMMEDIATELY
WHETHER ALL OR MOST OF UNACCOUNTED FOR 4,000 SPACES
WILL CONSIST OF CURRENTLY UNFILLED SPACES, AND IF SO,
REQUEST WE BE AUTHORIZED TO HANDLE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
AS DISCUSSED ABOVE.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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05 JUL 2006

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